

In an address to the residents of Mount Pleasant, the mayor made clear this was a difficult decision. He could have stayed in office and carried on. But Mayor Hallman felt he could no longer meet the high standard he had set for himself of being "effective."

As Mayor Hallman said in his resignation, "To me, being 'effective' means 'excellence'. I realize now that I am not meeting my personal definition of 'effective.' This Town deserves only the best from its leadership. Half way will not do for my Town."

His resignation was the mark of a true public servant willing to put the interests of the town he loves above his own personal interests.

Mayor Hallman has compiled a long and distinguished career of service in public office and private life.

After being elected to the office of mayor in September of 2000, Mayor Hallman spent nearly two terms in office growing his town and improving its assets. He will be remembered as a mayor who instituted infrastructure projects that helped change the face of Mount Pleasant. After only 3 years under his service, the town saw over \$150 million worth of road improvements and city development. Additionally, he helped secure Federal and State moneys for a newly debuted farmer's market venue and a waterfront park for public use.

During his time as mayor of Mount Pleasant, Mr. Hallman chaired the Police, Legal and Judicial Committee and the Transportation Committee. He also served on the Water Supply Committee and as an ex-officio member of the Mount Pleasant Waterworks Commission, the Patriots Point Authority, and the Charleston Aviation Authority.

In 1988, Mayor Hallman was elected to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives. While in office, he chaired the Charleston County Legislative Delegation as well as the State House Committee, which was responsible for overseeing the \$78 million renovation of the South Carolina State House. He also offered his skills on the Joint Bond Review Committee, and the State Development Board.

Born and raised in South Carolina, Mayor Hallman took great pride in seeing his State develop from corner to corner. As the son of a retired oil executive and a stock market investor in Greenwood, SC, he grew up to appreciate all that the State has to offer. He was a 1958 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he finished with a degree in business administration. Years later he was awarded an honorary doctor of humanity letters degree from the University of Charleston.

As a distinguished member of the State community, Mayor Hallman was often asked to participate in the development of multiple health and educational improvements and expansions. He served on the University Study Committee as their chairman, as well as the Low Country Graduate Advisory Board. Mayor Hallman chaired the

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and served as treasurer for Charleston Memorial Hospital. His dedication to all aspects of life in South Carolina was broad in scope and great in impact.

A devoted citizen, Mayor Hallman formally retired on May 20, 2009, as a revered member of the Mount Pleasant and South Carolina community. His leadership and his commitment to our State will be forever marked by his extraordinary vision and endless sacrifice. Throughout his entire career and to this day, Mayor Hallman has served as a model to those around him.

Along with his wife Shirley "Brooke" Hallman, who has stood next to him with unwavering loyalty and shared sacrifice, he celebrates his retirement with his three children and six grandchildren. I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring him for his lifelong career of service and also send along our best wishes to him and his family as he continues his battle.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM DEAN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Dr. Tom Dean of Wessington Springs, SD, who has been named the National Rural Health Association's 2009 Practitioner of the Year and wish to congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Dean has spent the majority of his 30 years in practice as a family physician in Wessington Springs, SD, and has served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission since 2007.

After completing his medical education and training out of the State, Dr. Dean returned to his native Wessington Springs, SD, as a National Health Service Corps physician. Dr. Dean dedicated his professional career to delivering health care to his neighbors in rural South Dakota. He is well known in his community for the personal attention he gives to his patients and for his understanding of the value of the patient-doctor relationship.

Having spent most of his career helping the residents of Wessington Springs stay healthy, Dr. Dean has come to understand the particular challenges of rural health care delivery and the impact of health policies on rural America. Dr. Dean is greatly involved with the National Rural Health Association, an organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues.

In addition to his practice and MedPAC work, Dr. Dean is chief of staff at Avera Wesskota Memorial Medical Center, and serves on the board of directors of the Bush Foundation Medical Fellowship and the South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians. He is a past president of the National Rural Health Association, recipient of numer-

ous awards and honors, and his research is published in many medical journals.

Through his practice and research, Dr. Dean has demonstrated his commitment to improving the quality of care provided to the one-fifth of Americans who live in rural areas.

I applaud Dr. Dean's commitment to providing quality health care to his patients. His contribution to shaping health care policy has added a valuable and powerful voice for both rural health care providers and patients.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC F. ROSS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Eric F. Ross who will celebrate his 90th birthday on June 25, 2009. A loving grandfather, great-grandfather, and husband, Eric has been dedicated to educating the public about the Holocaust and is a passionate supporter of educational and cultural institutions in the United States, Germany, and Israel.

Born in Dortmund, Germany, Eric fled Nazi Germany and arrived in the United States when he was 20 years old. He courageously returned to Europe in 1942 as a soldier in the U.S. Army and a member of the "Ritchie Boys," a group of young men who escaped Nazi Germany and joined the Army. These men were specially trained to fight the Nazis and because of his service, Eric was awarded a Bronze Star. He went on to become a successful businessman, establishing Alpha Chemical & Plastics in Newark, New Jersey and Mercer Plastics Company, which is based in Florida.

Holocaust remembrance and education are extremely important to Eric. In 2003, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and he remains actively involved with the museum. He and his beloved wife Lore, who recently passed away, are the museum's largest individual donors and the museum's Ross Administrative Center is named in memory of his parents, Albert and Regina Rosenberg, who perished during the Holocaust.

I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 90th birthday of this remarkable man. His passion for education and dedication to philanthropy has touched countless lives and should serve as an example to others. I thank him for his tireless work and would like to extend my warmest wishes on this momentous occasion.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages